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The Cover

Felice Frankel, MIT Artist in Residence and Research Scientist, believes that bringing an aesthetic component to scientific imagery is one way of making science more accessible. Her photograph of Proteus colonies growing in patterns on a petri dish captures part of James Shapiro's research at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Chicago. The scale reference for the image is 5 cm.

Frankel collaborates with investigators in numerous disciplines, creating images that have appeared on the covers and pages of various journals. Her most recent collaboration is the book *On the Surface of Things* (Chronicle Books), with text by George M. Whitesides, Mallinckrt-odt Professor of Chemistry, Harvard University.

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NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD
4201 Wilson Boulevard
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

February 26, 1998

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It is my honor to transmit to you, and through you to the Congress, the thirteenth in the series of biennial Science Indicators reports, *Science and Engineering Indicators – 1998*. The National Science Board submits this report in accordance with Sec. 4(j)(1) of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended.

These reports are designed to provide a broad base of quantitative information about U.S. science, engineering, and technology for the use of public and private policymakers in their decisions about these activities.

Investments in basic research, advanced technology, and science and engineering education are critical to the achievement of our national economic and social goals of improving health, welfare, economic competitiveness, and national security. The quantitative analyses in this report provide information on a variety of critical trends and issues as we prepare to enter the 21st century.

The report presents information on science and mathematics education from the precollege level, through graduate school, and beyond; and also presents information on public attitudes and understanding of science and engineering. It analyzes science and engineering activities in the United States and provides valuable comparative information on science and technology in other countries. One of the important new features of the report is a chapter on the “Economic and Social Significance of Information Technologies.” I should also note that the entire report will be available on the World Wide Web.

I hope that you, your Administration, and the Congress will find this report useful as you discuss and determine the policies and priorities for the Nation.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard N. Zare".

Richard N. Zare
Chairman

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